

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 7-18, which better define the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the features recited in claims 7-18 is provided in the original claims and the specification on page 9, lines 15-23, page 10, lines 4-14, page 12, lines 15-24, page 14, lines 7-21, and page 16, lines 6-15.

Claim 1 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama (US 6,507,629) in view of Sarraf et al. (US 6,747,948). Claim 2 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Sarraf in view of Kim et al. (US 6,563,807). Claims 3-5 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama in view of Sarraf and further in view of Kim. Claim 6 was rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Sarraf. To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 7-18, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Features of the invention, as recited in new claim 7, include: (1) interleaving signals according to one rule in the case of transmitting the signals and (2) interleaving the signals according to a different rule in the case of retransmitting the

signals. Stated another way, the rule for interleaving the signals (i.e., the interleaving pattern) is changed in accordance with the number of times the signals have been transmitted. As a result, the subcarriers to which the signals are assigned also change in accordance with the number of times the signals have been transmitted. By employing these features, the probability of repeatedly receiving an error in re-communicated signals, e.g., retransmitted packets, can be reduced.

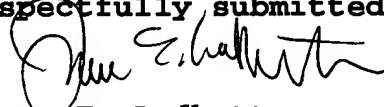
By contrast to the claimed features, Hatakeyama discloses a plurality of interleavers that perform a plurality of interleaving processes, each corresponding to an associated transmission speed (see Hatakeyama col. 9, lines 27-38). Sarraf describes a plurality of interleavers that output in parallel a plurality of interleaved bit streams, which constitute a composite signal after OFDM signal generation (see Sarraf Fig. 2 and col. 2, lines 17-35). Kim describes a plurality of interleavers that output in parallel a plurality of interleaved subframes to be added together before transmission (see Kim Fig. 3 and col. 4, lines 44-56). However, none of the applied references describes an interleaving pattern that is changed in accordance with the number of times signals have been transmitted, as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the applied references do not suggest the subject matter defined by claim 7. Claim 13 defines an OFDM reception apparatus that corresponds to the transmission apparatus of claim 7. More specifically, the reception apparatus applies a deinterleaving pattern that is changed in accordance with the number of times the communicated signals have been transmitted. Since the applied references do not suggest the transmission apparatus of claim 7, it follows that they do not suggest the corresponding reception apparatus of claim 13. Therefore, allowance of claims 7 and 13 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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